

Case Forms

Teacher's Copy

Case is the form that a noun or a pronoun takes to show its relationship to other words in a sentence. In English, there are three cases: *nominative*, *objective*, and *possessive*.

NOMINATIVE CASE That **author** is my favorite. **He** is my favorite. [subjects]

OBJECTIVE CASE I gave **him** a **book** with **pictures**. [objects]

POSSESSIVE CASE **My** sister likes that **author's** books. [possessive pronoun and possessive noun]

EXERCISE Above each underlined word in the following sentences, write *N* for *nominative case*, *O* for *objective case*, or *P* for *possessive case*.

Example 1. ^NI read an article about a famous explorer.

1. ^NShe went to the bottom of the ocean.
2. Another diver followed ^Oher as a safety precaution.
3. The ^Ndivers used hand signals to communicate underwater.
4. Near the shore, they saw a ^Oshelf of land.
5. This ^Pshelf's name is the continental shelf.
6. A ^Nshelf can slope many fathoms under water.
7. These shelves attract ^Oexplorers from around the world.
8. Scuba divers wear special ^Oequipment for exploring.
9. A ^Pdiver's mask is a window to an exciting, new world.
10. ^PIts fit helps to ensure a safe and comfortable dive.
11. ^PHers is equipped with a purge valve that helps to remove water.
12. Fins increase a ^Pdiver's swimming power.
13. A ^Nsnorkel is attached to the mask strap on the left side.
14. ^NIt helps a diver on the surface to conserve air.
15. When they wear scuba tanks, divers take their air supply with ^Othem.
16. ^NWe want to learn to scuba dive.
17. Mr. Jesse will teach ^Pus.
18. He teaches ^Phis classes at the city pool.
19. ^POur final dive, or checkout dive, would be at Lake Travis.
20. Will ^PTana's soccer schedule interfere with scuba classes?

The Nominative Case

10a. The **subject** of a verb should be in the nominative case.

EXAMPLE Did **he** and **she** design the Web site? [*He* and *she* are the subjects of *Did design*.]

10b. A **predicate nominative** should be in the nominative case.

EXAMPLE The judges will be **they**. [*They* follows the linking verb *will be* and identifies the subject *judges*.]

EXERCISE A For each of the sentences below, underline the correct pronoun form in parentheses.

Example 1. Al and (they, *them*) volunteered at the homeless shelter.

1. (We, *Us*) play chess every afternoon.
2. Everyone could see it was (he, *him*).
3. Did the Jenkins family or (they, *them*) host the picnic?
4. The French government and (we, *us*) have a good relationship.
5. On our team the high scorers were (he, *him*) and I.
6. The only people to understand the poem were (they, *them*).
7. The police officer and (we, *us*) were the ones who saw the UFO.
8. Stephanie and (he, *him*) thought the joke was hilarious.
9. Either Toni or (she, *her*) will pick you up after the show.
10. Wasn't it (he, *him*) who reported the missing bicycle?

EXERCISE B Each of the following sentences contains an underlined pronoun. Write C above the underlined pronoun if its form is correct. If the pronoun form is incorrect, cross it out and write the correct form above it.

Example 1. The tutors will be ^{she}~~her~~ and I.

11. Grandma and ^I~~me~~ went to a class to learn about computers.
12. After the replay, the referee said the winners were ^{we}~~us~~.
13. The photographers should have been ^{they}~~them~~.
14. The first to perform are ^C~~we~~.
15. The most valuable player might have been ^{she}~~her~~.

The Objective Case

10c. A **direct object** should be in the objective case.

EXAMPLE Lisa asked **me** to go to the library. [*Me* tells *whom* Lisa asked.]

10d. An **indirect object** should be in the objective case.

EXAMPLE The teacher gave **us** a test. [*Us* tells *to whom* the teacher gave a test.]

10e. An **object of a preposition** should be in the objective case.

EXAMPLE No one except **Oscar** and **him** speaks Spanish. [*Oscar* and *him* are the objects of the preposition *except*.]

EXERCISE A For each of the sentences below, underline the correct pronoun form in parentheses.

Example 1. Did you go with Conchita and (*he*, *him*) to the party?

1. The clown chose Mike and (*she*, *her*) from the audience.
2. He offered (*we*, *us*) some kimchi, a Korean salad.
3. Everyone applauded the performers and (*he*, *him*).
4. Between you and (*I*, *me*), the Hornets are my favorite team.
5. The crossing guard gave Racquel and (*I*, *me*) some good advice.

EXERCISE B Each of the following sentences contains at least one underlined pronoun. Write C above the underlined pronoun if its form is correct. If the pronoun form is incorrect, cross it out and write the correct form above it.

Example 1. Will you show *him* and ^C~~*I*~~^{*me*} your science project?

6. There are several seats between *her* and ^C~~*we*~~^{*us*}.
7. Mr. Yakanura made *us* tempura for dinner.
8. Mr. Hinds gave Peggy and *she* directions.
9. She gave the CD-ROM to *we*.
10. When we visited China, Grandma took *me* to a festival.
11. Will you give *her* and ^C~~*I*~~^{*me*} your e-mail address?
12. We played against the Raiders and *they* at the end of the season.
13. Will our class send *him* a get-well card?
14. The soothing piano music calmed *she* and *I*.
15. For *he* and *I*, Ms. Tompkins drew a huge cat.

Nominative and Objective Case A

The *subject* of a verb and a *predicate nominative* should be in the nominative case.

EXAMPLES May we go to the art exhibit? [subject]

My favorite artists are Frida Kahlo and she. [predicate nominatives]

A *direct object*, an *indirect object*, and an *object of a preposition* should be in the objective case.

EXAMPLES Mother took her and me to the gallery opening. [direct objects]

Show us your latest charcoal drawing. [indirect object]

For Sue and them, the guide gave a special tour. [objects of a preposition]

EXERCISE For each of the following sentences, underline the correct pronoun form in parentheses.

Example 1. They and (I, me) visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

1. The guide showed (we, us) the Yoruba sculpture exhibit.
2. Tell (I, me) more about this African art form.
3. (We, Us) think this terra-cotta sculpture is fascinating!
4. The last to leave the exhibit was (she, her).
5. Greta and (he, him) were eager to see "Mirror of the Medieval World."
6. They waited for (we, us) at the door.
7. Art of the Middle Ages interests (they, them).
8. (We, Us) saw works of art created between the fourth and sixteenth centuries.
9. The group members most interested in medieval art are (we, us).
10. The guide directed (I, me) to an American Indian art exhibit.
11. Everyone except (they, them) followed me.
12. Hal and (he, him) were amazed by the quilled and beaded work.
13. Drawings on painted buffalo skins told (we, us) stories.
14. Kim showed (I, me) a basket woven by Datsolalee.
15. One of the best-known of all American Indian basket weavers is (she, her).
16. Between you and (I, me), the wooden masks seemed scary.
17. The guide gave (we, us) pamphlets about the exhibit.
18. It was (I, me) who begged to stay.
19. My sister should have come with (we, us).
20. I bought (she, her) a book from the museum's bookshop.

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Nominative and Objective Case B

The *subject* of a verb and a *predicate nominative* should be in the nominative case.

A *direct object*, an *indirect object*, and an *object of a preposition* should be in the objective case.

EXERCISE Each of the following sentences contains at least one underlined pronoun. Write C above the underlined pronoun if its form is correct. If the pronoun form is incorrect, cross it out and write the correct form above it.

Example 1. Our visitors might have been she and him.
C he

1. Did you see the photographs by Dorothea Lange and she?
her
2. The winner in the Fun Run's wheelchair division was he.
C
3. Dr. Chen showed her and I his acupuncture clinic.
C me
4. The volunteer coordinator should be her.
she
5. Will you play a game with he and I?
him me
6. Him and me are building a model of the White House.
He I
7. Did you see him and her at the grocery store?
C C
8. Grandpa taught he and I some yoga postures.
him me
9. Your biggest fans are her and me.
she I
10. Will you go with Claire and I to hear the violinist Itzhak Perlman?
C me
11. I made her and him a nutritious snack.
C C
12. We and they meet on Thursdays for chess games.
C C
13. Mother and me designed a new birdhouse.
I
14. Daisuke told she and I about his trip to Tokyo.
her me
15. Did you choose him or I?
C me
16. Juanita, Malcolm, and me collaborated on a science project.
I
17. Is the author of the skit her or him?
he
18. Uncle Stuart gave him and I bicycles for our shared birthday.
C me
19. The awards presented to she and I were hung over the mantelpiece.
her me
20. We may have to go to the mall without her.
C

The Possessive Case

- 10f.** The personal pronouns in the possessive case—*my, mine, your, yours, his, her, hers, its, our, ours, their, theirs*—are used to show ownership or possession.

EXAMPLES Have you seen **my** sweater?
I believe these books are **theirs**.

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, underline the personal pronoun in the possessive case.

Example 1. Mine has white stripes.

1. Did Jenny try on her kimono?
2. With yours, the class has now collected over one hundred cans.
3. My report is about the history of skateboarding.
4. Mine is hanging in the closet.
5. Has theirs ever been tested for safety?
6. Our piñata is filled with fruit, nuts, and small toys.
7. A vegetarian restaurant is their choice.
8. Hers is the only project about volcanoes.
9. Where are your new glasses?
10. Its nest is made of twigs, leaves, and bits of yarn.

EXERCISE B Choose appropriate possessive-case pronouns for the blanks in the following sentences. Use a variety of pronouns.

Example 1. Is this video game yours?

11. Will your poem appear in our school's literary magazine?
12. Their stamp collection is not for sale.
13. Place your trophy next to mine.
14. I want to leave my suitcase here with your.
15. Her Web page design looks professional.
16. Has our piano been tuned lately?
17. Their opinions differ on that issue.
18. His was chosen first.
19. Did Your basketball coach offer any helpful suggestions?
20. Most of my clothes are made of cotton.

Review A: Case

EXERCISE A Each of the following sentences contains an underlined pronoun. Write C above the underlined pronoun if its form is correct. If the pronoun form is incorrect, cross it out and write the correct form above it.

Example 1. I will meet Lili and ~~she~~^{her} at the bus.

- Our band and ~~them~~^{they} are performing at the Fall Marching Festival.
- Judges rank us according to musical skill and technique.
- Did you save a seat for Lili and I? ~~I~~^{me}
- The instruments were loaded carefully by ~~they~~^{them}.
- On the bus Kirby and ~~he~~^C made up a pep song.
- They taught Mary and ~~she~~^{her} the song.
- The boys and ~~we~~^C took turns suggesting games to play.
- The first to arrive at the field were ~~us~~^{we}.
- Our band director gave Bob and ~~I~~^{me} some sunscreen.
- Where should Carol and ~~he~~^C put their trombone cases?

EXERCISE B Choose appropriate pronouns for the blanks in the following sentences.

Example 1. Tamika and she went skating last Friday.

- Do Ray and I have time to practice?
- Some of us talked to friends in other bands.
- Is the drum major she?
- Sue reminded Lili and me to straighten our hats.
- For the other bands and us, weeks of practice are about to pay off!

EXERCISE C Choose appropriate possessive-case pronouns for the blanks in the following sentences. Use a variety of pronouns.

Example 1. Mine are too muddy to wear inside.

- With only seconds left, his midcourt shot won the game!
- Was yours published in the school newspaper?
- At the dog show, our collie won several blue ribbons.
- My neighborhood's crime-prevention program won national recognition.
- Does her family celebrate Hanukkah?